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SUBJECT Volkspolizei "B"-Bereitschaft in Apolda

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1. The Apolda Bereitschaft is the first of its kind in Thuringia and is a "B-Bereitschaft", the B standing for artillery. The Bereitschaft had a strength of about 1,000 men and was organized into a headquarters and three 300-man kommandos. Each Kommando consisted of three Abteilungen.
2. Oberpolizeirat Zimmerlinkat was CO of the Bereitschaft, Kommissar Buss CO of a Kommando and Hauptwachtmeister Udenstedt leader of an Abteilung. A Soviet instructor who was about 38 years of age and ranked as Oberpolizeirat was attached to the Bereitschaft. He spoke fluent German.
3. EM were armed with carbines (model 98 K). Officers and instructors had sub-machine guns.
4. In December 1949 four 105-mm guns and four 157-mm guns were brought from Brandenburg (N 53/Z 23) to the Apolda Bereitschaft.* There were 150 rounds of ammunition issued per gun.
5. These guns were used to equip two newly activated four-gun batteries in Apolda. Gun drill was started in January 1950.
6. The 1st Btry went to the Umpferstedt (M 51/J 57) range in February 1950 for one-day record firing. Ten shells were issued per gun.
7. VP personnel were notified that the Apolda Bereitschaft would be detached to Berlin to "protect" the Free German Youth participating in the 1950 Whitsun Rally.

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: Presumably the German 150-mm medium field howitzer.

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